Procurement of SU-27 fighter plane by Pakistan

428. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pakistan's bid to procure high performance SU-27 fighter planes from the Russian Federation;

(b) if so, how do Government think that the sale of the fighter planes to Pakistan will have an imbalance in the country's air striking power; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard to the military assistance to Pakistan by Russian Federation at this critical juncture of the Indo-Pak relationship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan is interested in acquiring defence equipment, including aircraft, from Russia.

(b) Government are concerned about Pakistan's efforts to acquire sophisticated weapons and technology beyond its legitimate defence requirements. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

(c) Government have, on various occasions, conveyed to the Russian Government our concerns regarding the supply of any weapons to Pakistan. The Russian Government has stated that it was not supplying arms to Pakistan and would not do so in future.

Violation of code of conduct for diplomats

429. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has charged Pakistan with persistant violation of the Code of Conduct for diplomats and Consular Personnel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan, in turn charged India with having vitiated the atmosphere between the two countries by aggressive surveillance and "intimidatory actions by Indian agencies, involving Pakistani diplomat;

(c) whether it is a fact that India listed 118 instances in which the two year old Code of Conduct had been breached: and

(d) if so, whether India seriously considering a proposal to dismantle diplomatic relations with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakisan has from time to time been making false and motivated allegations of Indias non-compliance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

(c) Since the signing of the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan on 19-08-1992, there have been 229 specific instances of harassment and intimidation of Indian diplomatic officials posted in Pakistan.

(d) No. Sir.

Fundamentalist in Kashmir

430. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Member of the US House Foreign Aaffirs Committee has pointed out to the US Government that since 1989, the fundamentalists, under the influence of operatives in Pakistan,

have pursued a murderous campaign against the Kashmiri Pandits in order to establish an Islamic State;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In a hearing of the Asia Pacific Sub-Committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 9, 1995, Congressman Sherrod Brown (Democrat—Ohio) raised the issue of the plight of Kashmiri Pandits who had "suffered so greatly over the years—had been relegated in many ways to refuge status in their own homeland—their problems were more than just being refugees their problems were also human rights abuses". He queried as to why the had not found mention in the State Department's Human Rights report of 1994.

Assistant Secretary Raphel in her response explained that the Kashmiri Pandits were Hindus living in Kashmir, many of whom had left in the early days of the insurgency in 1989-90. Many of them had absorbed themselves into other states in the Indian Union but many were still living in camps in Jammu "in appalling conditions as refugee-camps tend to have". She maintained that the State Department Human Rights report was not a refugee report or an internally displaced persons repor but that the US Administration "would be happy to take under advisement the idea of making a reference to them".

Government have noted that members of the US Congress have begun to appreciate the plight of different secions of the Kashmiri population affected by Pakistan-supported terrorism in Kashmir, and hope that the US Administration would use its influence with Pakistan to bring about an end to such support.

Supply to arms to J and K Militants by Pakistan

431. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in 'Hindustan Times' dated the 10th February, 1995 that US Government is aware of the arms supply by Pakistan to militants operating in J and K;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is in contrary the assurance given by Pak earlier.

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Kashmir leaders have also gone to Saudi Arabia to collect funds for their secessionist activities in that State; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take or have already taken in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's support to terrorism continues unabated despite assurances to the contrary to the Government of India and to the international community.

(c) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(d) Government have strongly urged Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels to stop its support to subversion and terrorism. Government have also apprised the international community of the dangers inherent in the trans-border terrorism. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter terrorists, and will remain vigilant about material, financial or any other support extended from outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against India.

पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में भ्रष्टाचार

432. श्री आस मोहम्मद : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार के संबंध में 1-1-94 से 31-10-94 तक कोई शिकायतें मिली हैं;